



comic by Ikuemi Ryo

いくえみ綾

カズン c o u s i n 3

カズン

c o u s i n 3

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c o u s i n

3

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c o n t e n t s

21 3

22 19

23 35

24 51

25 67

26 83

27 99

28 115

29 131

30 147



#21
cousin



HINA SHIRAKAWA,
SECOND-YEAR
HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT,
LIBRA, BLOOD TYPE A

We
watched
her get
thinner and
thinner...

And now
look at her!
Can you
believe it?
I mean,
she went
on a
serious
diet.

I've got to
respect that
dedication!

I've got
so hard
to be
to her,
she's
pretty
incred-
ible.

Ah,
so my
sister,
right...

My sister
didn't say
anything
about it,
but I get
the feeling
something's
going on
because...

There
was
some-
thing
up with
a guy
who came
by once
before,
too...

Oh!
But that's
not all...

Love
changes
you,
huh...

I guess
it's true that
"People do
crazy things
for love."

Pfft!





MARUMI TANAKA
VIDEO STORE EMPLOYEE
CAPRICORN, BLOOD TYPE B



I hardly
get to
see her
anymore
now
though.

She's
really
great.

Somehow
she puts
everything
at ease.

SAYO NAGASE,
UNIVERSITY STUDENT
PISCES, BLOOD TYPE AB

Hm?

Yeah
...

You
mean
Bon?

Oh...

Tee
hee!

I feel free
around her...
like I just
don't have
to fight it...

I guess
it's just
a feeling
I get,
but...

It's hard
to describe,
but it's as
if we have
a bond...

Wonder
how she's
doing
right now
...

The other day we were at this store, right?

OK, so...

And the girl working there was so gorgeous.



EIKO KATAMURA,
VOCATIONAL SCHOOL
STUDENT
LEO, BLOOD TYPE AB



Don't you think?

Actually, I'm pretty late now.

There's something weird about that.

Glibbery, like jewelry kind of bright.

We're talking smooth, fair skin, glowing cheeks, supple lips, flawless eyebrows and bright eyes like a doll.

Huh?

What were we talking about before?



I've got colored contacts, too.



Once I
had my
high school
blossoming.
ha ha ha
everyone
around
started
changing.

But she
always
stayed
the same.



She lives
nearby,
so I've
known her
since ele-
mentary
school.

Bon has
pretty
skin.

Smooth
and
clear.



Ah...

Right.

I don't
usually
say stuff
like this.

But
the truth
is, somehow
I just have
the feeling
everything'll
work out
for her.

Yep.



Well,
I think she
deserves to
be happy.

Yeah.

And I
think she
will be.

Bon
really...



WATARU SHIROSHITA,
UNIVERSITY STUDENT
(BUT DOES HE ACTUALLY
EVER GO TO CLASS?)
AQUARIUS, BLOOD TYPE O



11



That's the problem.





TAKASHI NASUKAWA,
RESTAURANT OPERATOR
TAURUS, BLOOD TYPE B





Obviously, there are various ways of "being nice"...

"Being nice to everyone is the same as being nice to no one."



Anyway, more importantly, how is Bon?

It's hard to explain.

I don't expect you to really get what I mean, ha ha ha...

I guess she had a good time at her cousin's wedding.



How can I explain it...? There were so many differences between us, that there was really no reason for us to stay married.

Hm? Ah, that wasn't the reason for our divorce.

Well, except for our child...

The one thing holding us together.

Recently
I saw her
again, and
it had
been
so long
that...

It's
about
Tsubomi.

...I said
to her...

NONI SHIRAKAWA,
CELEBRITY
CANCER, BLOOD TYPE O

...that's
bothering
me right
now.

There's
some-
thing...

That's
really
horrible.
Isn't it.

And of course
I meant that
in a good way,
but then...

...she
told
me she
had been
dieting
...

..."You
haven't
changed
at all"...

And still,
I kept
mentioning
again and
again...
"You really
haven't
changed."

This kind
of faux pas.
I do things
like this and
don't even
notice.

This
happens
to me
a lot.

And
the
truth
is...

~~~~~  
~~~~~  
~~~~~

I don't  
know she  
had gotten  
fat...  
or, I mean,  
even if she'd  
gained weight,  
I wouldn't  
have  
known.

MUMBLE  
MUMBLE

I mean,  
I only  
remembered  
her from  
when we  
were young!

But, I'm still  
sure she must  
have felt  
shocked on  
the inside!



...that's the  
reason I don't  
have many  
friends.

RITSUKO KANAI,  
PART-TIME WORKER,  
DOES SOME MODELING  
SCORPIO, BLOOD TYPE A



I'm...

But I  
always feel  
love around me,  
so if I can  
reflect it back  
out the same  
way, then  
I will...



I'm  
...

...  
not in  
a good  
mood.

Because  
of  
Shiro.



She's  
gotten  
prettier  
...

And I  
wonder  
if Shiro  
realizes  
that.

And  
more  
confident  
....



.....  
.....  
.....

But  
now...

What-  
ever...



KAZUO MATSUSHIGE,  
VIDEO STORE MANAGER  
ZODIAC SIGN: UNKNOWN  
BLOOD TYPE: UNKNOWN

What?

Sexual harassment?

What are you talking about?

Pff...





#22  
cousin





HUFF  
はあ

HUFF  
はあ

HUFF  
はあ

HUFF  
はあ

HUFF  
はあ

HUFF  
はあ



NON!  
JUST  
TEXTED  
ME!

OH, RIGHT!  
I GOT  
A TEXT  
MESSAGE!

!

WHAT  
WAS  
THAT  
?

UM,  
LET'S  
SEE...

OH...  
WHAT JUST  
HAPPENED  
THERE?!

WHICH MADE  
ME ZONE  
OUT FOR  
A MINUTE...

AND  
THEN...

SHIRO...

THAT MADE  
ME THINK OF  
HER CHOCOLATE-  
COLORED PHONE.

AND I WAS  
SERIOUSLY  
CRAWING  
SOMETHING  
SWEET.



THEN  
SHIRO...





NO WAY  
THAT  
JUST  
HAPPENED  
!

TELL ME  
THAT DIDN'T  
HAPPEN.

NO  
WAY...



HEY, NONI,  
THANKS FOR WRITING TO ME

HEY, NONI,  
THANKS FOR WRITING TO ME...  
I'M SORRY I COULDN'T TEXT  
BACK RIGHT AWAY, THINGS  
WERE SUDDENLY BUSY...

BACK RIGHT AWAY, THINGS  
WERE SUDDENLY BUSY... :D  
IT MIGHT SOUND WEIRD BUT  
I'M REALLY, REALLY HAPPY  
TO HEAR FROM YOU.



TSUBOMI, HOW HAVE YOU  
BEEN SINCE WE LAST MET  
UP? I WAS SO HAPPY TO  
SEE YOU AGAIN! ♡♡  
ARE YOU STILL ON A DIET?  
(OR MAYBE YOU DON'T HAVE  
TO ANYMORE?) I'M SO SORRY  
I BLEW OFF ALL YOUR HARD  
WORK BY SAYING "YOU  
HAVEN'T CHANGED A BIT" (BOW)  
I'M SURE IT TOOK A LOT  
OF EFFORT AND WILLPOWER.  
I'M REALLY SORRY.  
IN THE MEANTIME, I'M DOING  
MY BEST, TOO. A HUGE  
PIMPLE JUST APPEARED  
RIGHT ON MY FOREHEAD AND  
THAT'S GOT ME FEELING DOWN,  
BUT THINGS ARE STILL GOING  
OK. IF YOU GET A CHANCE,  
SEND ME THAT PICTURE WE  
TOOK! HERE'S MY ADDRESS  
(XXX XXXXXXXXXX XXXX XXX).  
WHEREVER YOU GET AROUND  
TO IT IS FINE. HOPE WE GET  
TO MEET UP AGAIN! • NONI ♡



EVEN  
THOUGH  
NONI WENT  
THROUGH  
THE EFFORT  
TO WRITE  
ME...

I FEEL  
LIKE  
THERE'S  
A LOT  
I WANT  
TO SAY...

BUT ALL I  
CAN THINK  
OF IS CLICHÉ  
SMALL TALK.



IS THAT  
IT...?



EVEN NOW,  
MY  
DREAM  
IS TO  
BECOME  
A BRIDE.

HOW  
SHOULD  
I ACT  
AROUND  
SHIRO  
NOW?

WHAT  
SHOULD  
I DO?

HM...

I WONDER  
IF NONI EVER  
WORRIES  
ABOUT  
DEALING  
WITH GUYS.

I DONT  
KNOW WHAT  
TO EXPECT.  
WHAT SHOULD  
I DO?

WHAT  
HAPPENS  
NOW?

ACTUALLY,  
WILL I SEE  
HIM ANYMORE  
AT ALL?

I DONT  
KNOW  
FOR SURE.

I DONT  
EXPECT SHIRO  
TO COME TALK  
TO ME NOW.







Thank  
you.  
Come  
again!



I'M SO  
HUNGRY.



GRRR



Carbonara

Parfait

Omelette Steak

Donut

Chocolate Cake



SHAKE

SHAKE

SHAKE



Ok!

Shirley,  
you  
can go  
now.

You don't  
have to  
raise your  
hand.



I SHOULD  
HAVE EATEN  
SOMETHING  
BEFORE  
I CAME.

I'M  
STARVING.

18

I NEVER  
WORK  
THIS  
SHIFT.  
SO...

I  
COMPLETELY  
FORGOT.



When  
you leave  
restaurant!  
TURN OFF  
THE LIGHTS



Why  
are you  
here?







Are you ready  
for me to take  
your order?



A large  
order of rice...

And also a  
slice of maple  
pound cake,  
chocolate  
banana ice  
cream and  
an orange  
iced tea.

...with  
pumpkin  
potage  
and a  
ham rucola  
caesar  
salad.

I'll have  
a Spanish  
style beef  
omelette  
with mixed  
fries...





PROBABLY  
WANTS TO  
AVOID  
SEEING ME  
AT ALL

AFTER  
DOING  
SOMETHING  
LIKE THAT,  
HE MUST BE  
THINKING,  
"I BLEW IT!"



IT'S  
NO BIG  
DEAL...

DON'T  
WORRY  
ABOUT  
IT,  
SHIRO.

BUT IT  
DOESN'T  
MATTER...



...IT WAS  
JUST AN  
IMPULSE.

ESPECIALLY  
BECAUSE...



...GUY  
FRIEND  
I'VE EVER  
HAD...

THE ONE  
AND  
ONLY...

AND  
NOW IT'S  
OVER,  
HUH.

THIS  
SUCKS...

#23  
cousin



I'm not  
crying.

IT JUST  
NEVER  
CROSSED  
MY MIND

I JUST  
CAN'T.



## Wanted!



HE  
HAS A  
SON



...WITH ALL  
MY HEART  
WANTED TO  
LOVE AND  
FEEL LOVED.

I CAN BE  
FLIGHTY AND  
OUT-THERE  
SOMETIMES,  
BUT I REALLY...

HE'S PROBABLY  
THE TYPE TO  
BE GOOD AT  
YARDWORK  
AND STUFF  
AROUND  
THE HOUSE.

NOW THAT I  
THINK OF IT,  
MISTER  
NASUKAWA  
IS A BIG GUY.

...TO  
MEET  
HIS SON.  
OBVIOUSLY.

I'LL  
PROBABLY  
NEVER  
HAVE THE  
CHANCE...

Thank  
you.  
Come  
again!

NONE OF  
THAT  
MATTERS  
NOW.

AHH

SLURP  
SLURP

Well...  
I guess  
she takes  
a bath  
most  
days.

You really  
should get  
cleaned up!

Are you  
sure you  
don't want  
to take  
a bath?

Tsubomi!

SOMEHOW...

...I FEEL  
COMPLETELY  
WORN OUT.



You're coming tonight, right?

Hey, Shiro!

Huh?

Oh yeah, what time?

Six o'clock.

Pretty early, huh?

Just a regular girl, that's kinda cute.

Although, I mean, she was pretty, but...

She was kinda hard to deal with, huh?

She was really pretty... if you like that type I guess.

Oh, that's right. Your last girlfriend...



I'm going for it too!

So you and your girl broke up, right?

I'm gonna score, guys!

I hear the girls we're set to meet tonight are all hot.

Sure, I bet you will.



Really? Sweet!

"Normal"? What does that mean?

I'd rather go for a normal girl.



That,  
and being  
fat!

Even then,  
no makeup  
is a red  
flag.

But  
what if  
they  
already  
have nice  
skin?

Oh, that  
not good.  
When a girl  
won't wear  
makeup,  
that's a  
bad sign.

She  
didn't  
even wear  
makeup or  
anything.

Really?

When we  
met she  
was just a  
normal girl,  
you know?

I have no  
time for  
fatties!  
No  
way!

Not even the  
ones with  
huge boobs.



Whoa,  
what is  
this?!



Being  
fat,  
huh...

BAH  
HA  
HA  
HA



Personally,  
I can handle  
that part.

No,  
you  
won't  
even  
get the  
chance.



...cute!

Oh,  
she's my goosh!  
so...

Why do you  
have this?!

It's  
Noni!



Ah,  
that makes  
sense.

Must  
mean this  
girl...

Oh,  
a friend?

She's my  
friend's cousin.

But  
why do  
you have  
this?

OK,  
enough.  
Gimme  
back my  
phone.

So did  
you meet  
Noni in  
person?

No,  
I didn't.

My friend  
sent the picture  
from a family  
wedding?



Yeah,  
I know  
what you  
mean...

IF I were her,  
I wouldn't want  
to take a  
picture next  
to Noni...

But  
still...

Wow...



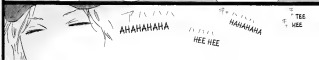
Am I right,  
guys?

No,  
seriously!

Good answer,  
good answer!

AHA  
HA  
HA

Why not?  
You ladies would  
all be fine!



HAHAHAHA

HEE HEE

HAHAHAHA

TEE  
HEE



Say...

...  
gone  
now  
for a

Shiro-  
shita  
has  
been...



REEEEEE

REEEEEE



.....

DEET  
DEET



S  
S  
S  
H  
H  
H

FROM: WATARU SHIROSHITA  
SUBJECT: (NONE)

SORRY. GOTTA GO.





キッ  
CREAK







Is that so...?  
OK, then  
you don't  
mind if  
I talk.

Nope.  
Not  
really.

Some-  
thing you  
wanna talk  
about?



Ritsu came  
in here by  
herself and got  
drunk until she  
puked and cried.  
Just so you  
know...

BAM

クッ

ホッ  
HOBBY

!!

How come  
she'd let herself  
cry in front of you,  
but in front me  
she's always like...  
you know!

What  
does  
that even  
mean? What's  
it like?

I've  
never once  
seen that  
girl cry.

When  
you  
said  
"cried"  
...

Oh yeah,  
I'm A-  
OK!  
♡

Are  
you OK,  
Shiro?

Oh ho, I get it...  
it's because  
Nasu is *special*.  
Everybody  
loves Nasu!  
**HA HA HA!**

No, I  
don't think  
*I know...*

.....

So...  
I kissed  
Bon.

It was  
probably  
her first  
time...

HEH  
HEH



Guess you  
don't care  
either way.

After all,  
you turned  
her down.



Sure  
it is.  
She's  
cute...

That's  
nothing to  
"fuck with"  
about.



Ohh...  
but you've got  
nothing to say to  
that, since...



Yeah...  
You didn't  
know?

You have  
a kid?

Ah...

No,  
I didn't.

Well,  
now  
you do.



I didn't  
*turn her*  
down,  
just...

...she  
doesn't need  
to get  
wrapped  
up with a  
30-year-  
old guy  
with a kid.

Oh man,  
can't believe  
you're pulling  
the age card  
in this day  
and...



Wait?







Her  
toothbrush  
and every-  
thing...

That  
moment  
when  
Ritsa  
packed  
up all  
her  
stuff...



I don't  
know.

I  
just...

...right  
then... Some-  
how...

I like Bon  
a lot but...

DO ME  
A FAVOR...  
EVEN IF WE  
SEE EACH  
OTHER AGAIN  
SOMEWHERE...  
DON'T TALK  
TO ME.



SEE  
YOU...

SHIRO.



She left without any tears.



But like I said,  
she came here,  
then got drunk, puked,  
and cried...



**BLAM**

*I never  
said  
that!*



If she had cried  
in front of you,  
would you be  
satisfied?



INCOMING CALL  
WATARU SHIROSHITA

Bon?

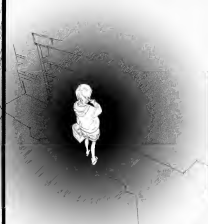


Bon.  
I'm  
sorry...

...about what  
happened.  
Let's just  
forget  
about it.







# 24  
cousin

Right...

Ah...

We're totally cool,  
don't worry, Shiro.  
Talk to you later!

Sure!  
Don't worry  
about it!



I CAN...

...REGULAR  
SELF.

...GET  
BACK  
TO MY...



The number  
you have  
dialed...

The number you  
have dialed is  
either out of  
service range  
or has been  
powered off...

As the  
tone,  
please  
record  
your...

Your call is  
being forwarded  
to an automatic  
voice message  
system...



PATTER

PATTER

PATTER

PATTER





TSUBOMI, SINCE YOU HAVEN'T  
REPLIED, I GUESS THAT MEANS  
YOU REALLY ARE MAD AT ME  
ABOUT IT...

IF SO, I DON'T WANT TO KEEP  
BOTHERING YOU WITH MESSAGES.  
I'M REALLY SORRY IF I MADE  
YOU UNCOMFORTABLE.

IT LOOKS LIKE I'LL HAVE SOME  
TIME OFF NEAR THE END OF NEXT  
MONTH, SO I WANTED TO MAYBE  
MAKE PLANS TO VISIT YOU AND  
HANG OUT AGAIN. BUT IF I DON'T  
HEAR BACK FROM YOU, I'LL GIVE  
UP THAT IDEA AND LEAVE IT  
AT THAT.  
TAKE CARE...

FROM: NONI SHIRAKAWA  
SUBJECT: HOW ARE YOU?





For a  
Flawless  
look  
that lasts  
all day!

NONI?

HOW  
DO YOU  
GLOW  
LIKE  
THAT...?

SHE'S SO  
BRIGHT.



I CAN'T  
BRING  
MYSELF  
TO SEE  
YOU NOW.

I'M  
SORRY  
...

I  
CAN'T  
...

WITH  
THOSE  
BIG,  
BRIGHT  
BEAUTIFUL  
EYES...

IF YOU  
LOOK  
AT  
ME...

IT JUST  
MAKES  
EVERYTHING  
ABOUT THE  
WAY I AM  
NOW, SEEM TO  
GET WORSE.



HOW'S IT GOING WITH YOU?

FROM: TAKASHI NASUKAWA  
SUBJECT: HEEEEY-







EVEN  
NOW...  
STILL  
TRYING  
TO BE  
NICE  
TO ME.

MISTER  
NASU-  
KAWA...

...IS SO  
NICE.



NOT EVEN  
NASH...



BUT  
NOW...

I KINDA  
WISH...

...I WON'T  
CALL HIM  
ANYMORE BY  
ANY NAME.

...I HAD  
CALLED HIM  
BY A CUTE  
NICKNAME.



IF I  
SAW HIM  
AGAIN...

I LOVED  
THE WAY  
HE'D LEAN  
OVER THE  
COUNTER...

I CAN'T  
BRING MYSELF  
TO SEE HIM  
ANYMORE.

...HIS BIG HANDS,  
AND THE SOUND  
THE GLASS MADE  
WHEN HE SET  
IT DOWN...

...I'D  
FALL FOR  
HIM ALL  
OVER  
AGAIN.

SO,  
I KNOW  
FOR SURE...



OK, WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?!  
IS SOMETHING WRONG WITH YOUR  
PHONE? I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY TIMES  
I TRIED CALLING, BUT NONE ARE GETTING  
THROUGH! ARE YOU HOME?!  
I'M JUST GONNA COME OVER, OK?

FROM: EIKO KATAKURA  
SUBJECT: WHAT'S GOING ON?!



HEY! SERIOUSLY WHAT'S GOING ON?!

DAMMIT!

THAT  
SUCKS...  
BECAUSE  
I...

EIKO'S  
COMING  
OVER?  
RIGHT  
NOW?!



I CAN'T  
BRING MYSELF  
TO SEE HER.

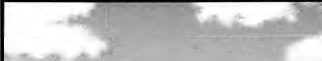
AND  
RIGHT  
NOW...

I DON'T  
HAVE THE  
STRENGTH  
OR THE  
COURAGE  
TO DEAL  
WITH THAT.

I MEAN,  
EIKO IS...  
SHE CAN BE  
BLUNT AND  
ABRASIVE,  
BUT SHE'S  
A NICE  
PERSON.

OR SHE'S  
A NICE  
PERSON,  
BUT IS  
BLUNT AND  
ABRASIVE...





TELL THEM  
I'M REALLY SICK  
AND CAN'T COME  
IN FOR A WHILE.

I  
SHOULD...

BUT,  
IT'S ALREADY  
BEEN TWO  
WEEKS SINCE  
I LAST  
SHOWED UP...

...CALL THE  
VIDEO STORE.

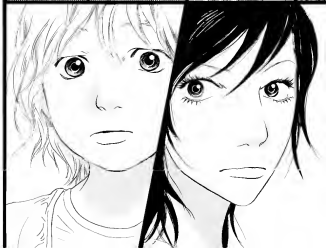
OH  
MAN...

...I'M  
ALREADY  
FIRED.

AH HA HA.  
SURELY  
BY NOW...

I'M DOING  
EVERYTHING  
WRONG...







TURN

た

Hey!

カ  
ッ  
TRIP

ズ  
ア  
ア

ッ  
CRASH







# 25  
cousin



Ack!



Sorry...

Thanks...



It's like  
you're  
trying to...

You  
didn't just  
get fat  
again...



This is  
bad.



You're even  
sloppier than  
before.

What  
happened  
to you?





I'M SO  
UGLY!

WAAAH-AAAAAGH!!



Uh...

Uhn...

Oo...

Un...

Ah...

Oo...

O...

Uugh,  
saah!

uhn  
un...

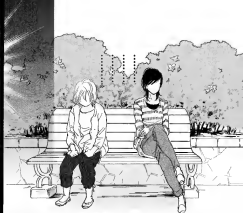
Aahh,  
shh  
hs  
...

Oo  
oo

A A A G H H H !



WHAT AM  
I DOING  
HERE?!



What did  
you eat to  
end up like  
this now?  
Must've been  
spectacular



Everything  
I had been  
holding  
back from.  
Every-  
thing...

Anything  
that  
came to  
mind.

I just  
ate what-  
ever...

I...



SHE  
MANAGED

MAYBE

Alright,  
so...

...TO  
SMACK  
SOME  
SENSE  
INTO ME.

WHILE CRYING  
LIKE THAT...



I've been  
using my savings  
to buy whatever  
food I want.

...IT FELT  
LIKE I DIDN'T  
NEED TO HIDE  
ANYTHING  
ANYMORE.

SOMEHOW...

...SHE SAW  
EVERYTHING  
BAD THAT I  
HAD BEEN  
TRYING TO  
HIDE.

But...  
I've always  
hated vomiting.

And I  
couldn't figure  
out how to  
make myself  
do it.

I was  
scared of  
throwing  
up.

And  
after that,  
it was all  
downhill.

At first,  
I was trying  
to control  
myself a  
little...

But  
then I  
had no  
control  
and...

...I started  
thinking I could  
eat whatever I  
wanted and  
then throw  
up later.

I didn't want  
my parents to  
find out, so I  
started sneaking out  
to the convenience  
store at night.

And to keep  
them from  
noticing all  
the extra  
wrappers...

...I'd sneak  
the trash out  
at night, too.



When I'm eating ...

... seems to disappear.

Everything that makes me sad...



What is?

Well, that's good.



But because I couldn't, that's why I look so gross now.

And that's still better than looking good because you throw up.



That's a really bad habit to get yourself into.

It's good that couldn't make yourself vomit.



Heh...

What P



If you're gonna eat, you're gonna gain weight. That's how nature works!







And  
also,  
Shiro...



I'M  
SORRY...

LET'S JUST  
FORGET  
ABOUT IT.



I feel  
like...

...I was  
able to do  
it because  
he was  
with me,  
but then...

Shiro  
...

...has  
been so  
supportive  
and...



Sorry  
...



Shiro...

Well,  
he...



Shiro would stand around gaping at me, saying, "You're so beautiful!"



When I first tried wearing makeup...

RITSU...

YOU LOOK GREAT!



YOU'RE SO BEAUTIFUL!



AAUA

Heh heh...

Sounds like that idiot... Geez!



PFT-Ha ha!

Shiro was so excited, he was crying for me.

...after I first lost weight...

When I saw him...





COULD IT  
BE THAT...

Shiro was  
able to blow  
away all of my  
insecurities.

SHE  
AND  
I...

SHE  
AND  
I...

I was  
plain...

...nardy and  
awkward...

Didn't  
stand out  
in class...

Not  
popular...

...  
gloomy  
...

...and  
spineless.

...  
ARE  
...

...  
ALIKE?



And I didn't think he was actually *that* stupid...

He's naive and honest to the point of sounding stupid, but those are good points for him.



He accepted all of that and still said I was beautiful.

He's the man that started it all for me.



...and then expect me to be happy about it like *he* was.

So we could watch her get thin and pretty...



I didn't think he'd be stupid enough to bring another girl like me around...



So there's really no reason for us to be together anymore. Pointless.

It's no surprise he'd be unsatisfied with me.

I knew that compared to that girl, I'm difficult, aloof and emotionless. So...

And there's no doubt he was having a good time with that girl.



I can stand on my own now.

But it's OK, because...



I've joined the Tokyo Model Club.

Starting next month, I move into the dorms.



I don't know what's up with Shiro now, but I really don't care anymore.



...than  
Noni.

I'm going  
to be  
even more  
famous...



SHE  
AND  
I...



...THERE  
IS ONE  
INCREDIBLE  
DIFFERENCE  
BETWEEN  
US.



...SEEM  
SO  
SIMILAR,  
AND  
YET...





# 26  
cousin

THIS  
IS THE  
WORST.







Well...

Yeah -

That's true.



I'm terribly sorry.

I've caused a lot of trouble for you.



Obviously it was a problem to have someone no-show like that...

We can't have that around here. Normally we'd just fire you!

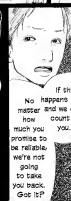
I know. I'm sorry.



Yes.

I'm sorry...

Thank you.



If this No happens again, matter and we can't count on you... much you promise to be reliable, we're not going to take you back. Got it?



...and we know that if you're here, you can get a lot of work done.

But you know we're short-staffed anyway...

You're the one...

...who changed shifts, right?

Ah, guess so.



Are you  
OK?

I'M  
HUNGRY.

BUT...  
NOW I'M  
HUNGRY.

I DON'T  
WANT  
TO BE A  
USELESS  
HUMAN  
BEING.



I mean,  
it's  
suddenly  
really  
awkward  
out there.

Like,  
we have to  
try not to  
notice or  
mention  
it...

Seriously!  
I know  
what you  
mean!

It's pretty  
scary, seeing  
someone  
relapse  
like that!

Scary  
is right.



Ah,  
yes.

I'm  
fine.



Talk about  
uncomfortable!

Whew...



I FEEL  
HUNGRY.





.....





H-



Ha-!



...you've  
got to be  
kidding me...

But  
wait...  
you...



Hasn't  
seen  
ya in  
a while

Uh  
...

I'm not  
the one  
who's been  
hiding









Shiro,  
you're so  
dense!



If  
that's  
not it,  
then  
what's  
wrong  
?



So  
...



Sh-

50m



Wait  
...

OK,  
so...



Maybe you  
can act  
like nothing  
happened...

I mean,  
I wish  
I could  
just ignore  
it too,  
but...

Something  
happened...  
It was actually  
something,  
but then...

...just  
pretending  
it didn't  
happen  
...

I can't  
just flip a  
switch and  
forget  
about it!

That's not  
something...  
...I can  
do so  
easily!



Figure  
it out  
your-  
self!

Don't  
ask  
me!

What do  
you want  
me to  
do?

D-

DING



Maybe you  
can't forget  
because...  
you're in love  
with me?



When did I say anything  
like that?! What I'm saying  
is you're a blockhead!





Why not?

Hey! You've got no business messing with it!



You still haven't replied to her invitation, have you?

...KEEP BOTHERING YOU WITH MESSAGES. I'M REALLY SORRY I MADE YOU UNCOMFORTABLE. LOOKS LIKE I'LL HAVE SOME TIME OFF NEAR THE END OF NEXT MONTH. SO I WANTED TO MAYBE MAKE PLANS TO VISIT YOU AND HANG OUT AGAIN. BUT I CAN'T GET BACK FROM YOU

And why are you ignoring Nori?



Even your mind is turning ugly.



Nori goes to the trouble of asking to visit...

...and you can't even bother to reply?

Do you think you're too important to even be polite now?



Don't go reading my messages!

はっ  
? SMACK



You're nothing  
but a  
Noni-fangirl!



So what?  
You want to  
insult me?



I'm worried  
enough to look at  
your phone, and you  
have something  
bad to say  
about me?!



And we  
all know you  
hide out and  
eat all the time.  
Mom and Dad  
both know!



You're just  
swelling up,  
getting uglier  
by the day...



You  
never go  
out...

Shiro was waiting for three  
and a half hours out there  
so he could finally see you.  
You want to insult him, too?!





SHIRO WAS  
WAITING FOR  
THREE AND A  
HALF HOURS...



#27  
cousin





You  
know...

Hey,  
Bon...



...Shiro.

Thank  
you....



MY STOMACH  
DOESN'T  
FEEL EMPTY  
ANYMORE.



IT'S NOW  
FILLED WITH  
SOMETHING  
NICE AND  
GENTLE.





See you  
later!

...I'll pretend  
*that* never  
happened!

Even  
though  
I'm still  
angry...

I almost  
forgot...

STEAM

ポ  
ポ  
ー  
ン

STEAM

ポ  
ポ  
ー  
ン



I REALLY  
LIKE YOU  
A LOT.

AS A  
PERSON...



I'LL RECOVER.

FATTIE.  
YOU SLACKED  
OFF,  
FATTIE.

FATTIE.  
YOU CAN  
DO IT,  
FATTIE.

BOTH MY  
HEART...  
AND MY  
BODY.

I'LL  
RECOVER.

I'LL GIVE  
IT MY ALL.  
ONE MORE  
TIME...

...I'M NOT  
COMPLETELY  
HOPELESS.

LOOKS  
LIKE...

13"  
8LUG

EVEN  
THOUGH  
I'M ALL...

Hm  
...

...FLABBY.



The background of the entire page is black, filled with numerous white stars of varying sizes and brightness. Some stars are simple dots, while others have four-pointed or six-pointed diffraction patterns. The stars are scattered across the frame, with some appearing in clusters. In the center of the page is a large, vertical white rectangular box with a thin black border. Inside this box, there is text. In the bottom-left corner of the page, there is a smaller, vertical white rectangular box, also with a thin black border, containing text.

IT'S NEVER  
TOO LATE TO  
GET BACK  
WHAT I  
HAD BEFORE.

PROBABLY...



Excuse  
me...



That'll be  
320 yen.











JUST TO  
TEASE  
HIM A  
LITTLE.

I SENT  
SHIRO  
ONE,  
TOO.



SHE'LL  
PROBABLY  
IGNORE  
IT.

I TEXTED  
NONI TO  
APOLOGIZE  
FOR  
BEING SO  
SELFISH.

HEY! IT TURNS OUT NONI MIGHT  
BE COMING TO VISIT...  
OR NOT. IF SHE DOES, DO YOU  
WANT TO MEET HER? AH,  
NEVER MIND. I SHOULDN'T  
BOTHR YOU WITH STUFF  
LIKE THIS, RIGHT? :P TTYL!

I'M REALLY, REALLY SORRY TO  
REPLY SO LATE, NONI! :(  
I WAS FEELING REALLY ILL AND  
DEPRESSED. PLEASE FORGIVE ME!  
O: IF YOU HAVE A CHANCE, I  
DEFINITELY WANT YOU TO COME  
VISIT! IT'D BE GREAT TO HANG OUT  
AND I WANT TO CATCH UP ON  
THINGS WITH YOU! I'VE GOT A LOT  
TO TELL YOU, AND I HOPE TO HEAR  
ABOUT WHAT YOU'RE UP TO AS  
WELL. MY SISTER REALLY  
WANTS TO SEE YOU AGAIN, TOO!



SMIRK

にやり...



AND THEN  
FINALLY...



EIKO...



I SHOULD  
TEXT HER  
TOO.



AND THEN  
FINALLY...









# 28  
cousin

...UNTIL  
YOU  
COME.

THEN, I  
GUESS I  
SHOULD  
KEEP THEM  
HERE...

HMM.





MISTER NASUKAWA



EVEN IF THE  
RESTAURANT  
CLOSED DOWN,  
THAT DOESN'T  
MEAN HE'S  
GONE, OK?



NOD  
NOD  
हे नो  
नो

NOD  
NOD  
हे नो  
नो

Your call cannot be completed at this time...



WILL I  
NEVER...

...GET A  
CHANCE  
TO SEE  
MISTER  
NASUKAWA  
AGAIN?



WILL I  
NEVER...

...GET A  
CHANCE  
TO SEE  
MISTER  
NASUKAWA  
AGAIN?

HE HASN'T LEFT...

...HAS HE?

HE HASN'T LEFT...

...HAS HE?

110  
✕  
—  
—  
—

MAYBE I  
SHOULD  
JUST...

JUST  
LIKE  
THIS...

...MY  
CONNECTION  
TO MISTER  
NASUKAWA  
COULD BE  
COMPLETELY  
LOST.

I WAS  
WISHING  
FOR THE  
IMPOSSIBLE.

FROM THE  
BEGINNING...  
HE EXISTED  
BEYOND  
MY REACH.

...KEEP THIS  
ENTIRE  
TIME AS A  
BEAUTIFUL  
MEMORY.



...RUNNING  
AWAY FROM  
SO MUCH.

I  
HAVEN'T  
HEARD  
BACK  
FROM  
NONI.



*My dream  
is to  
become  
a brat.*



I'VE  
BEEN...



MEMOIR

I  
WANT TO  
SEE THE  
CATS!



MEEOOW  
んたふたふ

INCOMING CALL  
MISTER NASUKAWA

It's been  
a while!  
How's it  
going?

Hello,  
BonP



Oh!  
Sorry about  
that!

Ha  
ha  
ha...

Why  
is your  
restaurant  
empty?!

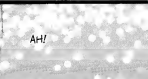
Ah-

There's  
nothing  
here!

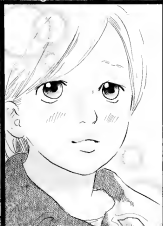
Mister  
Nasu-  
kawa!

Your  
restaurant  
...











I couldn't  
do much  
about  
that...

The customers  
were always  
complaining that  
it's cold.

...so I  
told them  
to wear  
two socks.



I relocated.  
I'm still unpacking,  
so there's  
not much.



I'll take  
care of  
them later.

Those are  
heavy!



Hey,  
you don't  
need these  
anymore,  
right?



OK.



OK.



She wanted to open a shop.

My ex-wife.

...and that side will be mine. This half will be hers...



...get along pretty well.

You two...



...but sharing the space... running two businesses.



Gorry, I've got nothing to serve yet.

How about we go out?



Yeah, like war buddies.





No,  
you're not.  
You have  
experience  
now.



First  
of next  
month!

When  
do you  
open?

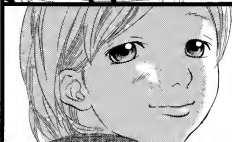


Here,  
take  
this.



I'll  
come  
back  
then.









...THAT  
IT MAKES  
ME WANT  
TO CRY.

IT'S SO  
DELICIOUS



THAT NIGHT  
I GOT A  
MESSAGE BACK  
FROM NONI



TSUBOMI! I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE FEELING BETTER!  
SO YOU WEREN'T FEELING SO GOOD LATELY?

THAT HAPPENS TO ME SOMETIMES, TOO. :)

IT'S LIKE GETTING STUCK IN A MAZE, RIGHT? SOMETIMES A REALLY DARK MAZE...

BUT THEN SOMETIMES A SIMPLE THING CAN BE ENOUGH TO JUST •POOF•

LIFT YOU RIGHT OUT OF IT!

IT LOOKS LIKE I WON'T HAVE ANY TIME OFF FOR A WHILE, SO WE PROBABLY CAN'T

MEET UP RIGHT AWAY, BUT, I SHOULD BE ABLE TO GO BACK FOR NEW YEAR'S

(IT'S NOT LIKE I'M CAST TO HOST ANY BIG NEW YEAR'S PARTIES, HAHHA)

AND GUESS WHAT ELSE?! I'VE SECRETLY FALLEN IN LOVE!♥ MY CRUSH IS MUCH MORE  
ADULT-LIKE AND MIGHT NOT EVEN CONSIDER ME AS A ROMANTIC INTEREST... YET.

BUT I'M BECOMING AN ADULT EVERY DAY, TOO! :D CAN'T WAIT TO HEAR ABOUT YOU!

(BUT JUST SO YOU KNOW, MY SECRET LOVE  
IS STILL SECRET TO EVERYBODY ELSE! :)♥

# 29  
cousin



I'VE  
REGAINED  
MY  
SENSES...



I've still  
got plenty  
of time.



SO  
STARTING  
TODAY,  
I'M GETTING  
MY BODY  
BACK.





WHAT  
A  
PAIN.

I HAVE-TO  
START ALL  
OVER AGAIN.



YEAH.

IT'S  
REALLY  
A PAIN!



THEN  
AGAIN  
...

IT'S  
LIKE  
HE  
SAID...



WHEN  
I GET  
HOME...

ALL  
RIGHT...

...WITH  
SOUP AND  
STEAMED  
VEGETABLES.

I'LL  
EAT  
IT...

...I'LL  
GRILL THE  
CHICKEN  
I BOUGHT  
YESTERDAY.



UGH.  
I'M STILL  
HUNGRY...

I'LL TAKE  
THE LONG  
WAY TO  
WORK.

EVEN IF I UNDOED ALL THE  
WORK I'D DONE UP UNTIL NOW,  
THAT DOESN'T UNDO WHAT  
I LEARNED FROM IT.



Hey,  
Shirakawa  
Twin.





Excuse me?

Want to hang out some time?



.....

So, when's your day off?

I SHOULD'NT HAVE LIED.



How about it?

Maybe a movie?  
Or just grab a cup of coffee is cool, too.



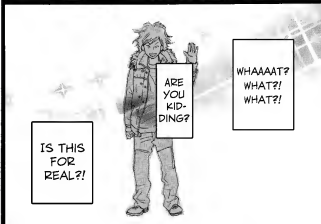
That much of a shock, huh?

What?!

What's with the delayed reaction?



.....









WHAT  
COULD  
HE...



GETTING  
MY BODY  
BACK...

...  
POSSIBLY  
SEE IN  
ME?

I'VE GOT A  
LOT OF WORK  
AHEAD OF ME.



Smoking.

.....



NUDGE

She's hot!

Please follow me.

NUDGE

Don't

Damn



Welcome!

Table for three?  
Smoking or non-smoking?



SH +

CLINK

CLINK

SH +

SH +

CLINK



YAWN

I got asked for my number today.

Did you give it?



Take a guess!



Good work!

See you tomorrow!



I'll be serving you tonight.





Catch  
you later,  
Sasaki!

Now?  
I have  
early shift  
tomorrow.

So...

Wanna  
hang out?

I'm  
going  
home.



No idea.  
You  
shouldn't  
though.



...I was  
harassed  
on my  
way home.

The  
other  
day  
...

I'm scared  
to go  
home by  
myself!



Wait!



I can't  
go home  
alone.

Huh?





You'll miss  
the last  
train..

How about  
a drink?



To the  
subway,  
right?

OK.  
I'll walk  
you.

Yeah.



AND SHE  
REPLIED..

I WROTE  
BACK TO  
NONI.

IF YOU DON'T DISLIKE THE GUY, THEN  
BEING JUST FRIENDS IS PROBABLY FINE,  
RIGHT? ♡ BUT AS SOON AS YOU START  
THINKING "THIS IS WEIRD" OR "I DON'T  
LIKE THIS," YOU SHOULD STOP SEEING HIM  
RIGHT AWAY! HANG IN THERE, TSUBOMI!  
(BUT DON'T PUSH YOURSELF TOO HARD!)



I didn't  
think you'd  
actually call.  
I thought I  
scared you off.

No  
way!

Thanks for  
calling!

Oh,  
sorry!  
It's  
just...



See  
you next  
Sunday!

Right,  
OK.

Yeah!  
Oh,  
totally!  
Ha ha  
ha!



Clack

Pale and  
plump!

What's  
she like?



What?  
Got a  
date?



WOOO--



Yeah,  
yeah.  
Good  
luck.

I'm not into cold,  
calculating girls  
like you, Sis!



You've  
got  
weird  
taste.

Hmph.

How's it  
weird?



WH-WH-WH-  
WHAT DO I DO NOW?!  
AAAGHHH.  
WE'RE JUST GOING TO  
HANG OUT, RIGHT?  
JUST AS FRIENDS,  
NO BIG DEAL, RIGHT?  
REALLY? SERIOUSLY?



HHHHH.....



...TALK TO  
HIM ABOUT  
IT?

SHOULD  
I...

...FROM  
A GUYS  
PERSPECTIVE.

HE CAN  
GIVE ME  
ADVICE...

...AGAIN.

...JUST  
END UP  
BEING  
REJECTED...

I  
WONDER  
IF I'LL...



ON  
THAT  
DAY...

MY HEART  
STILL POUNDS  
AT THE  
THOUGHT OF  
MISTER  
NASUKAWA.

ACTUALLY  
...

...I FELT LIKE  
SOMETHING  
ENDED.

...AND I  
FINISHED  
EATING  
IT...

WHEN I GOT  
THAT SWEET  
CHOCOLATE  
BAR...



697742

Co 44444.



HANG IN THERE, TSUBOMI!  
(BUT DON'T PUSH YOURSELF TOO HARD!)





Hmm.



HA  
HA  
HA  
HA!  
He's  
definitely  
a keeper!

That's amazing!  
What a miracle!

A guy actually  
picked you up?  
That's pretty  
damn incredible!  
You'd  
better  
hold on  
to him!

# 30  
cousin





HOPE  
SHE  
HAS  
FUN.

WHAT-  
EVER  
...



BIKE LANE  
COME RIGHT



I WAS  
ONLY  
TELLING  
THE  
TRUTH.



SHE  
ACTUALLY  
HUNG  
UP ON  
ME.



HMPH.



WEL-  
come!



...  
WITHOUT  
ANY  
PLANS.



HA  
HA.



IT'S  
EVEN  
SUNDAY.



THIS  
SUCKS.



I LEFT  
THE  
HOUSE  
...

...I NEVER  
REALLY  
UNDERSTOOD  
HER.

UP TO  
THE  
VERY  
END...

I  
WONDER  
HOW  
SHE'S  
DOING...

...S  
PROBABLY  
WORKING  
HARD.

RITSU

IT WAS  
FUN  
WHILE IT  
LASTED.

YEAH  
WELL

WE WERE  
RIGHT  
TO SPLIT.

TOO  
COMPLICATED  
FOR ME.

HMPH  
3/31  
3

...SHE'LL  
FIND  
SOMEONE  
WHO GETS  
HER.

I HOPE  
NEXT  
TIME  
AROUND  
...

...SHE  
WASN'T  
LIKE THAT.

BUT  
I BET  
DEEP  
DOWN...

SHE  
ALWAYS  
ACTED  
STRONG

YEAH

...A  
PRETTY  
GOOD  
GUY?

AREN'T  
I...



Let's hang out!

Hey, Nasukawa!







Sure thing!

You better invite me to your grand opening!

OK?

I DODGED IT, BUT...

...AND HE SAW RIGHT THROUGH ME.

HERE I WAS TRYING TO HIDE IT...

GIMME A BREAK!

GEEZ.

REARND 7



SHE'S HAVING FUN, SO SHE CAN'T BE BOTHERED.

I GET IT.

FINE.

CLACK 7" 7 7 7



WHY WON'T SHE PICK UP?

DOESN'T SHE WANT MY ADVICE?

RING

RING

RING

RING



I'M  
BORED  
OUTTA  
MY MIND  
HERE  
ON A  
SUNDAY  
SO...

I  
JOKED  
WITH  
YOU.

YOU  
WERE  
A NEW  
PART-  
TIMER.

...THE  
DAY WE  
FIRST  
MET.

I  
STILL  
RE-  
MEM-  
BER  
...

THAT'S  
GOOD...

...YOU  
WERE  
KINDA  
COLD.

BUT AT  
THAT  
TIME...

YOUR  
QUICK  
INFLATION  
AND  
DEFLATION  
WAS  
AMAZING,  
TOO.

THE FACT  
THAT I  
SAW YOUR  
RESEMBLANCE  
TO NONI...  
WAS PRETTY  
AMAZING.

I'M  
SURE  
YOU'LL  
...

...YOU  
BETTER  
INTRODUCE  
ME TO  
NONI.

...AREN'T  
YOU  
FORGETTING  
SOMETHING  
?

...I'M  
GLAD  
YOU'RE  
HAPPY,  
BUT...

YOU  
KNOW  
...

...FIND  
SOME-  
ONE TO  
MAKE  
YOU  
HAPPY.



Usually on  
Sundays  
everyone  
else is out  
on dates!

I really  
want to see  
this movie!

I'm so  
glad I  
caught you,  
Shirohito!



Why  
is she  
mad?

Uh, OK.

No!  
None!



IS THAT  
RIGHT  
...?

Same with  
eating  
alone.

I can't  
watch movies  
by myself.



A  
VIDEO  
STORE  
?

He asked  
some girl at  
a video  
store.

Oh,  
yeah?

Even my  
brother's  
on a date!

He has  
weird  
taste.

03 CINEMAS



You  
don't  
have a  
date?









Hey,  
Sasaki...

Guess  
they're  
watching a  
movie, too.

They're  
headed  
to Frontier  
Cinemas.



Elita?  
It's me.

Where  
are  
you?

OK.



I'm  
sorry.



THAT  
PERSON  
IS...

RIGHT NOW,  
I AM VERY  
INTERESTED  
IN SOMEONE.

DON'T  
GET ME  
WRONG...







Thanks  
everyone  
!

OK,  
that's  
a wrap!



Hurry,  
Nori!

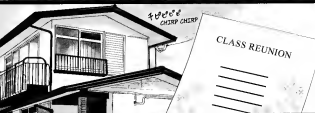
Of  
course  
you  
can!



FROM: TSUKENO  
RE: HOW DID IT GO?

IT FEELS LIKE I GOT ANOTHER  
GUY FRIEND. SOMEONE SHINO  
DAMPED INTOUS AND THE TWO  
OF THEM HIT IT OFF REALLY  
WELL. SO BRBDDDD!

ANYWAY, I HAVE A HUGE FAVOR  
TO ASK. WHEN YOU COME VISIT,  
CAN I INVITE SHINO OVER, TOO?



きりりりり  
CHIRP CHIRP

CLASS REUNION



KABE.  
HTOMI.  
HIRAHARA.  
EVEN EIKO.

NO WAY I  
CAN LOSE 5 KILOS  
IN TWO WEEKS.

ONLY TWO  
WEEKS LEFT!

KANAI  
PROBABLY  
WONT GO.

WHY COULDN'T  
THEY HAVE  
SCHEDULED IT  
BEFORE I GOT  
LIKE THIS?

I'LL JUST  
TAKE IT  
SLOW.

FOR  
NOW...



I  
GUESS...

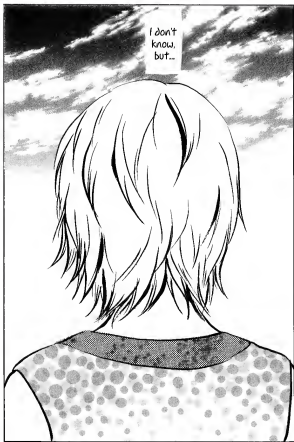


...WAS  
KINDA  
COOL.

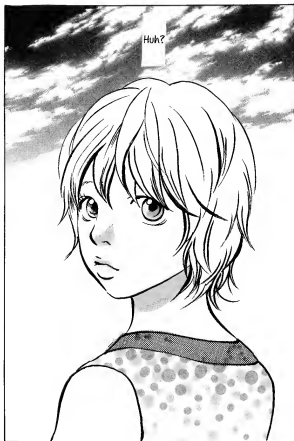
THE SHIRO  
I KNEW AT  
THAT TIME...

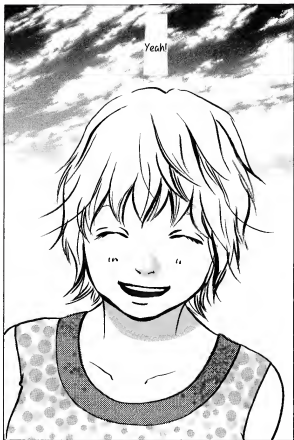


cousin The End









COUSIN VOL.3

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